

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please accept the following replacement paragraph of the specification, marked to show changes:

At page 1, beginning at line 23:

A₂ According to the present invention there is provided a fire escape apparatus suitable for use where escape requires a movement from a first level to a second lower level. The fire escape apparatus comprises a casing, a flexible ladder and a means for deploying said ladder; in which the casing has a mouth and is of sufficient dimension to contain the flexible ladder when that ladder is not in use. The deployment means includes a spacer means, also referred to as a spacer, and one or more handle means, also referred to as a handle. The deployment means may be reversibly reconfigured between a storage configuration and a deployed configuration.

At page 5, beginning at line 26:

A₃ In a preferred embodiment the deployment means further includes a second ladder means, also referred to as a second ladder. The second ladder means is shorter than the flexible ladder and the second ladder means is adapted to move from a storage position to a deployed position on re-configuration of the deployment means.

At page 9, beginning at line 30:

A4

In the most preferred embodiment of the present invention, the deployment means is provided with means or an energy source which can be utilized to cause the re-configuration of the deployment means from its stored position to its deployed position to occur without a user of the apparatus having to physically manipulate the apparatus. Most preferably this energy is provided by biasing. The biasing means may be one or more compression springs, each of those springs are held in a compressed state by a latch means, also referred to as second latch means, until the actuation means causes release of the latch means. In alternative embodiments, the energy necessary to cause the deployment means to reconfigure may be obtained from a compressed gas source, a source of electricity, or any other appropriate energy storage means or source.
